

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/765,533

Applicant(s)

HOWLETT-CAMPANELLA, HELEN
HARDMAN

Examiner

Lori Amerson

Art Unit

3764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/31/06- Board Decision.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,6-9,11,13-16,18 and 20-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/15/06 .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Attachments A-C.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew Sparks on May 15, 2006. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification: See Attachment A

In the Claims: See Attachment B

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: See Attachment C. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori Amerson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4971. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri from 9-6 p.m. Interviews Tue. and Thur..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Huson can be reached on 571-272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Emerson".

LORI AMERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

ATTACHMENT A

On page 6 of the specification, 6th paragraph,

It will be noted that the indicia and segments 42-52 typically extend away from the center of the mat. The indicia 42-48, often in the form of parallel and vertical guidelines, incrementally help the practitioner as body parts are moved away from the center of the design 12-26. As seen in Fig. 8, a marker 56 may also be placed at the center point of mat 10 (which is also the center point of quadrants 34-40). Marker 56 may be circular. Additional markers 58 may also be placed at a plurality of points where indicia (e.g., line 42)-48 intersect as well as at the points indicia 42-48 intersect longitudinal axis 30 and/or transverse axis 32. Markers 58 may be circular. As a whole, the design 12-26 is intended to be pleasing to the eye and fill the space of the mat 10 to facilitate body alignment with the more or less one thousand postures that the practitioner can perform. Once the practitioner understands the most common and used positions and how they relate to the mat design 12-26, other positions can be applied to the design using common sense.

ATTACHMENT B

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A yoga mat, comprising:
an elongated mat having an upper surface and a lower surface; and
a symmetrical body placement guide on the upper surface of the mat and configured to aid a yoga practitioner to properly align the practitioner's body during yoga postures, the body placement guide including:
a patterned design defining a longitudinal axis substantially extending the length of and bisecting the upper surface, the patterned design further defining a transverse axis bisecting the longitudinal axis, and indicia positioned from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle comprises a line extending from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle; and
four equal quadrants defined by the longitudinal axis and the transverse axis, each quadrant being adjacent to two other quadrants, the patterned design in each quadrant being a mirror image of the patterned design of the two adjoining quadrants.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Amended) The yoga mat of claim 1, wherein the patterned design includes indicia positioned from the transverse axis at a forty-five degree angle comprising a line extending from the transverse axis at a forty-five degree angle, perpendicular to the line extending from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 1, wherein the patterned design defines multiple segments of equal area parallel to the transverse axis.
7. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 1, wherein the patterned design defines multiple segments of equal area parallel to the longitudinal axis.
8. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 1, wherein the patterned design includes step indicia within each quadrant.
9. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 8, wherein the step indicia are created by intersecting lines forming a ninety degree angle.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Amended) A yoga mat, comprising:
an elongated mat having an upper surface and a lower surface; and

a symmetrical body placement guide on the upper surface of the mat and configured to aid a yoga practitioner to properly align the practitioner's body during yoga postures, the body placement guide including:

a patterned design defining a longitudinal axis substantially extending the length of and bisecting the upper surface, the patterned design further defining a transverse axis bisecting the longitudinal axis; and

four equal quadrants defined by the longitudinal axis and the transverse axis, each quadrant being adjacent to two other quadrants, the patterned design in each quadrant being a mirror image of the patterned design of the two adjoining quadrants;

wherein the patterned design includes indicia positioned from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle comprising a line extending from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle; and

wherein the patterned design includes indicia positioned from the transverse axis at a forty-five degree angle comprising a line extending from the transverse axis at a forty-five degree angle, perpendicular to the line extending from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 11, wherein the patterned design defines multiple segments of equal area parallel to the transverse axis.

14. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 11, wherein the patterned design defines multiple segments of equal area parallel to the longitudinal axis.

15. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 11, wherein the patterned design includes step indicia within each quadrant.

16. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 15, wherein the step indicia are created by intersecting lines forming a ninety degree angle.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A yoga mat, comprising:

an elongated mat having a rectangular configuration, an upper surface and a lower surface; and

a symmetrical body placement guide on the upper surface of the mat and configured to aid a yoga practitioner to properly align the practitioner's body during yoga postures, the body placement guide including:

a patterned design defining a longitudinal axis substantially extending the length of and bisecting the upper surface, the patterned design further defining a transverse axis bisecting the longitudinal axis; and

four equal quadrants defined by the longitudinal axis and the transverse axis, each quadrant being adjacent to two other quadrants, the patterned design

in each quadrant being a mirror image of the patterned design of the two adjoining quadrants;

wherein the patterned design includes indicia positioned from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle comprising a line extending from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle;

wherein the patterned design includes indicia positioned from the transverse axis at a forty-five degree angle comprising a line extending from the transverse axis at a forty-five degree angle, perpendicular to the line extending from the longitudinal axis at a forty-five degree angle; and

wherein the patterned design includes step indicia within each quadrant.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 18, wherein the patterned design defines multiple segments of equal area parallel to the transverse axis.

21. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 18, wherein the patterned design defines multiple segments of equal area parallel to the longitudinal axis.

22. (Original) The yoga mat of claim 18, wherein the step indicia are created by intersecting lines forming a ninety degree angle.

23. (Cancelled)

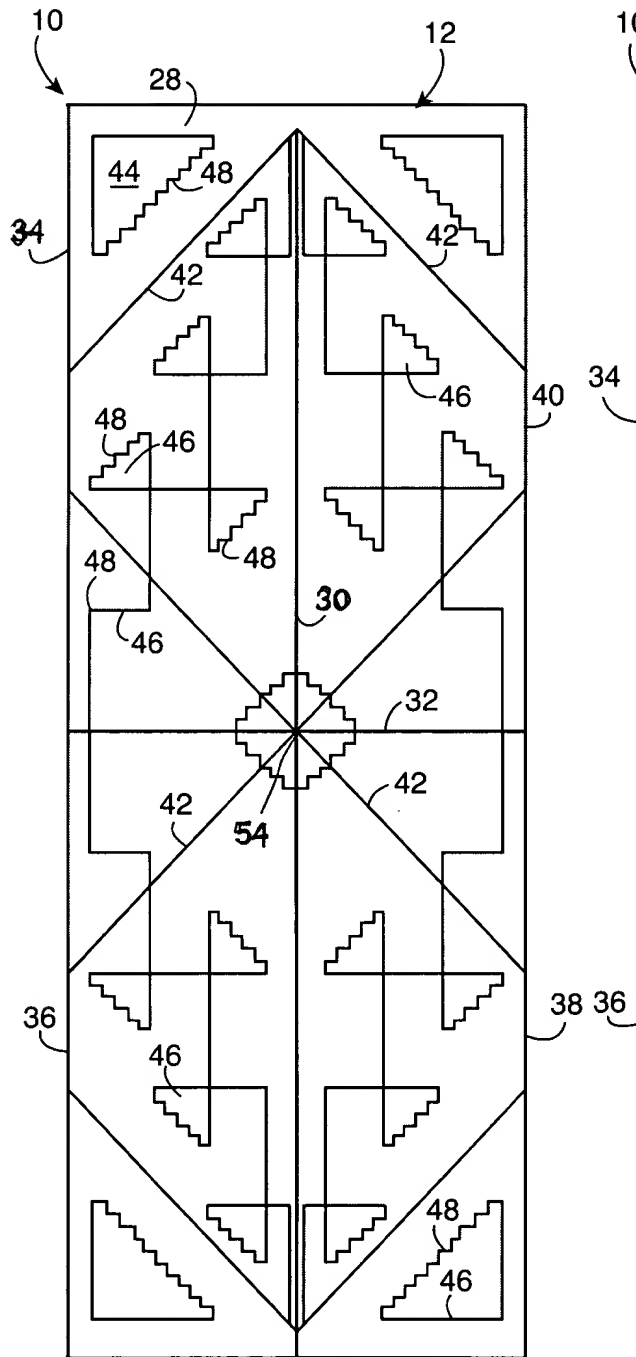


FIG. 1

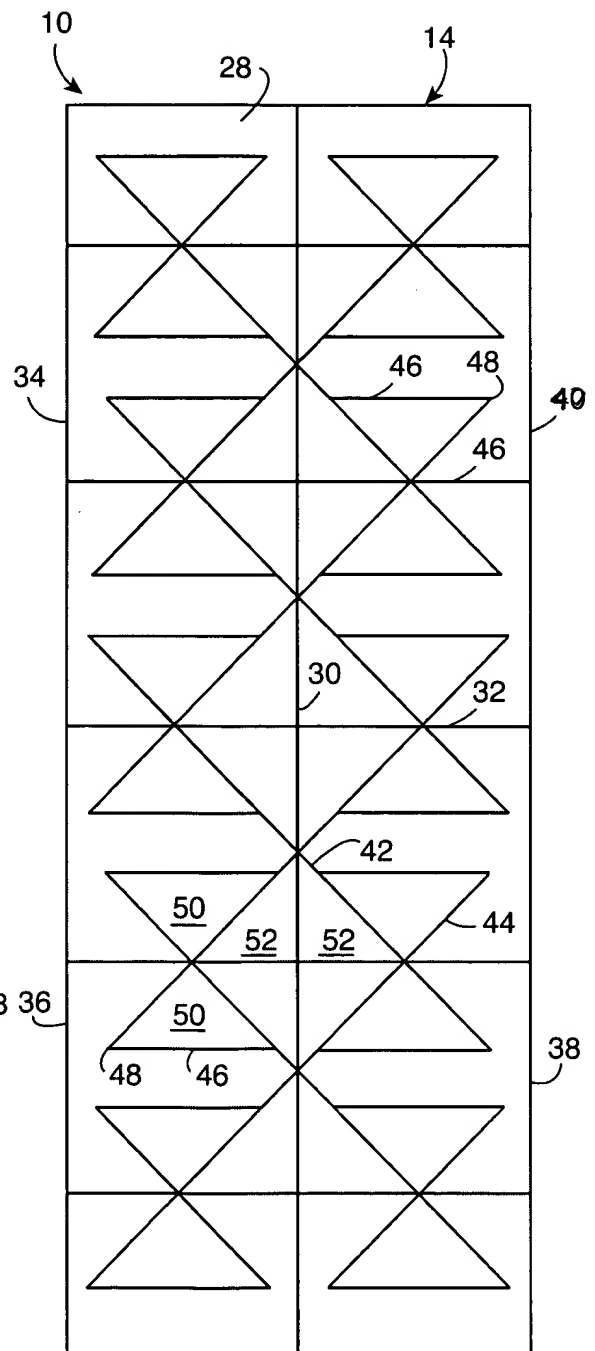


FIG. 2

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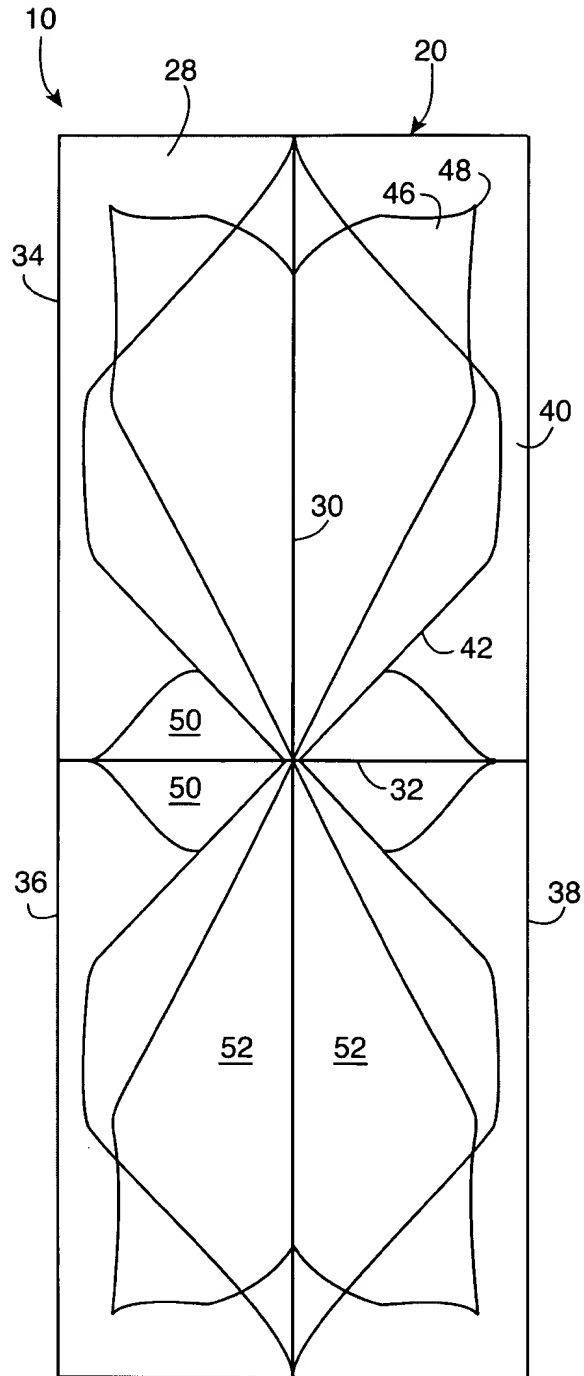


FIG. 5

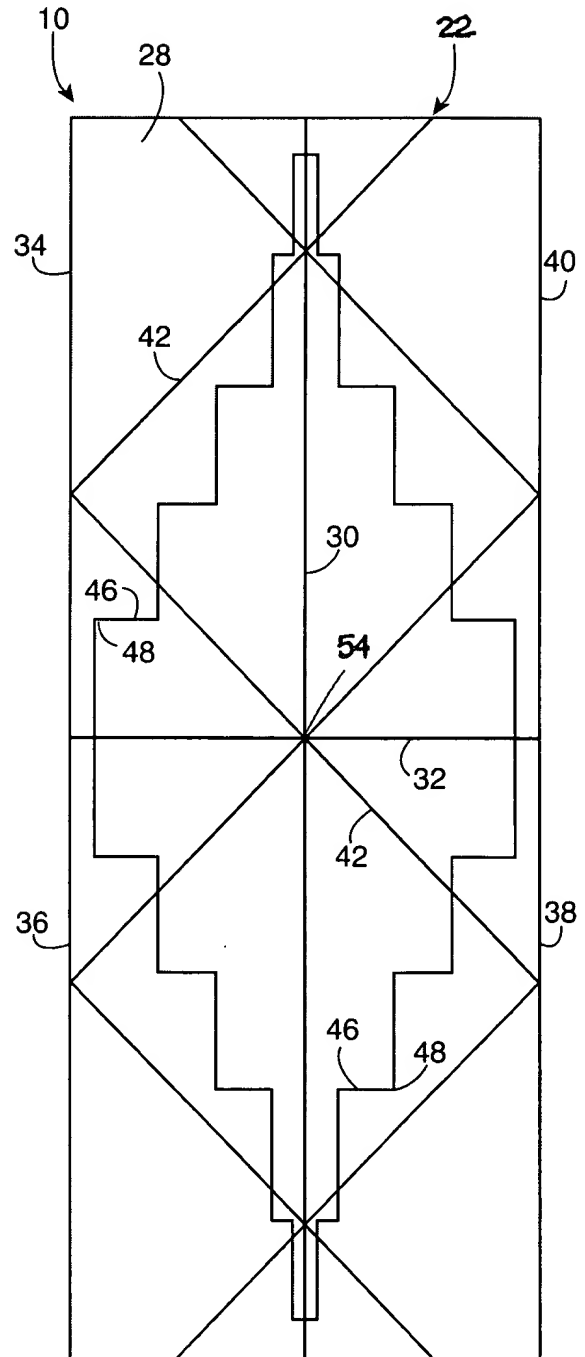


FIG. 6

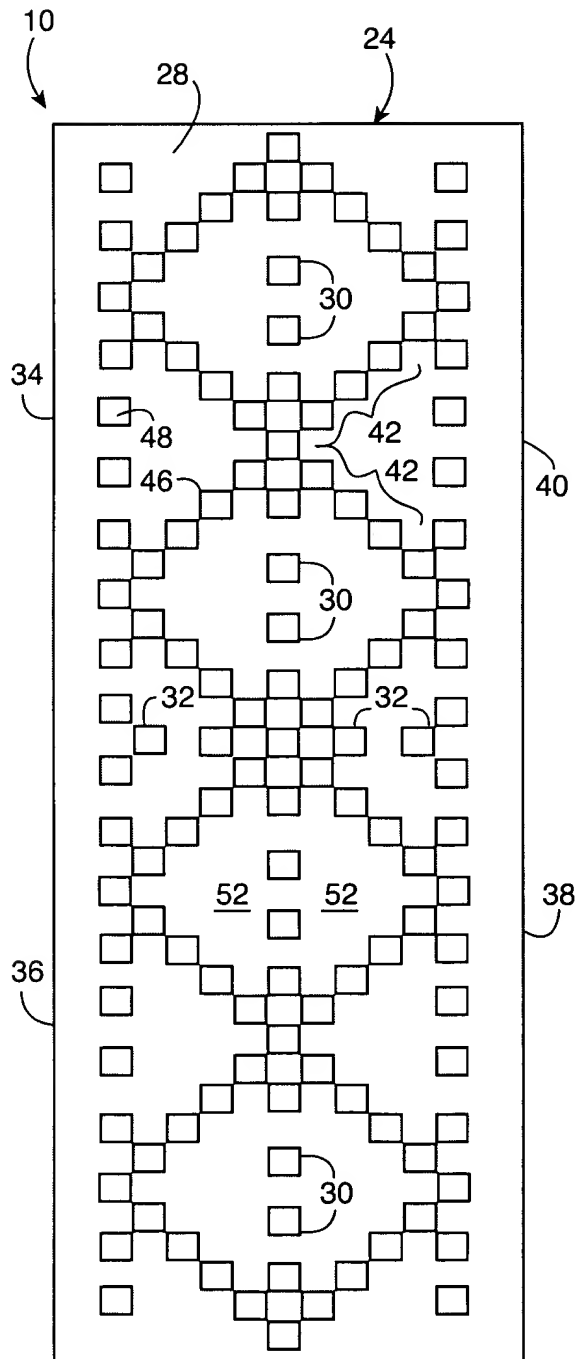


FIG. 7

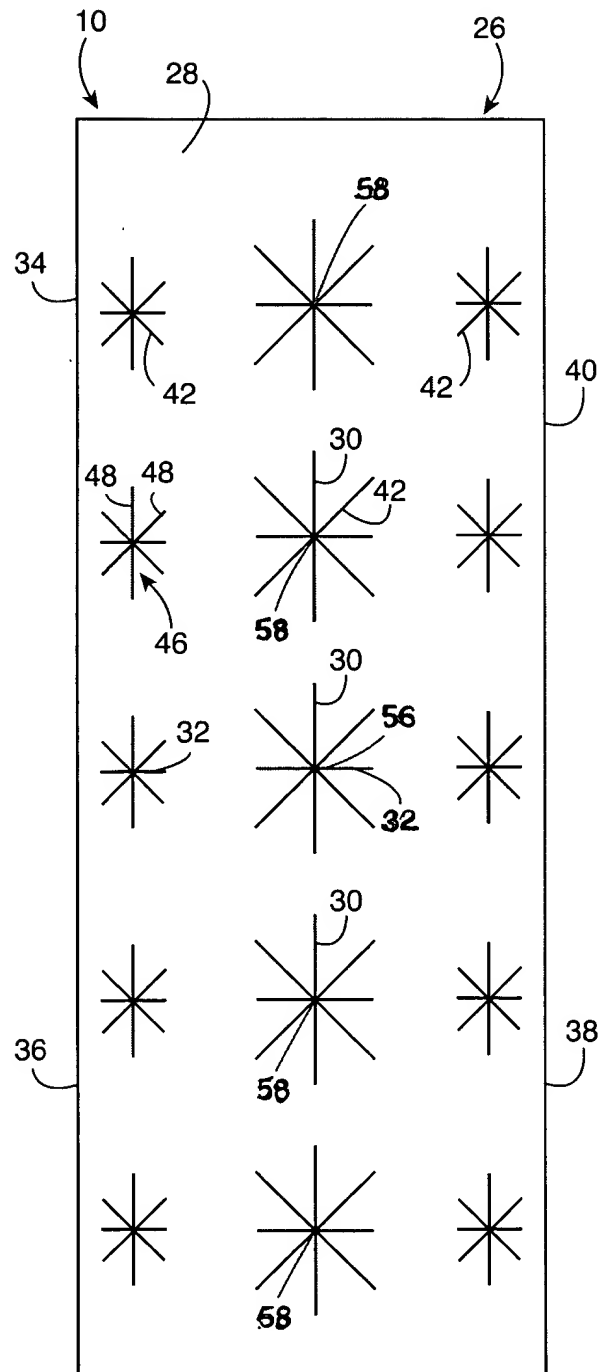


FIG. 8